FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR HORNIK ANNOUNCES OPEN SPACE DEDICATION

Parcels Preserve over 87 Acres

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (October 3, 2015)— Saturday, October 3, 2015, Mayor Jonathan Hornik, along with Councilwoman Randi Marder and members of the Open Space Committee gathered at Smith Farm located at 399 Tennent Road to dedicate three Open Space acquisitions totaling more than 87 acres. In addition to the Smith Farm which encompasses approximately 16 acres, the ceremony recognized 21 acres preserved on Harbor Road known as the "Penksa Farm" and 50 acres on Tennent Road just south of Crine Road known as the "Baydock" parcel.

During the dedication, Mayor Hornik said, "We are standing here in a muddy field with rain and wind from a nor'easter to dedicate three open space parcels--three parcels which are forever protected from development. Preserving open space is critical to the quality of life for Marlboro residents." He continued, "The Open Space Committee has been a partner with my administration in aggressively pursuing open space opportunities and I want to thank Captain Rajan and the committee for their dedication."

The parcels were acquired using dedicated Township open space funds, 50% matching grants from New Jersey Green Acres and a \$250,000 grant from the Monmouth County Open Space Program towards the purchase of Smith Farm. Earlier this year, Mayor Hornik announced that Marlboro was also the recipient of an additional \$825,000 in matching funds from New Jersey Green Acres. This grant was the largest in Marlboro's history and the largest grant given to any single municipality.

Councilwoman Randi Marder said, "As Council Liaison to the Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Shade Tree Committees since I was first elected in 2007, it gives me tremendous pride to see the benefits of our hard work." She continued, "Having grown up in Marlboro it is even more gratifying to know that preserving these properties does not only keep Marlboro green, but helps to prevent the increased traffic that would occur if these properties were allowed to be developed with hundreds of new homes."

Since 2007, hundreds of acres of Open Space parcels within Marlboro Township have been preserved for residents to enjoy. Monmouth County preserved several hundred acres in the vicinity of Harbor Road and the Marlboro Airport and the Township, helping to further this effort, has protected approximately 50 acres in that area alone with the

preservation of the Baymar and Penksa Farms. Dedicated in 2013, the "Geohegan" parcel located on 82 Tennent Road will be the future home of Marlboro's Community Garden. Also, in 2015, Monmouth County and the Monmouth Conservation Foundation partnered on the acquisition of approximately 89 acres of property previously owned by the Fariello Family at the northern end of Marlboro.

The Open Space committee is chaired by Capt. Shital Rajan and the Vice-Chair is Fran Owtiz. Committee members include Jack Appel, Harry Cross, Dennis Stack, Linda Sullivan and Linda Lee. The Agricultural Advisory committee is comprised of Chairwoman Heidi Rajan, Vice-Chairman Tom Chenal and member El Geran.

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